

**HAMPTON BEACH VILLAGE DISTRICT
MEETING
January 15, 2014**

Present

Chuck Rage, Chairman & Commissioner
Robert Ladd, Commissioner
Stephen LaBranche, Treasurer

Chairman Rage called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Old Business

Commissioner Ladd said he attended the Seabrook Village District meeting this morning. Parking was discussed. It is very complicated in Seabrook. They give two placards to each resident plus a town line parking permit to all registered cars in the town. The problem is there are 1,400 placards and only 300 parking spaces. Seabrook is going to seek legal advice to see if domicile can be used instead of residence. Seabrook is keeping their residents informed on this issue using email, Facebook, etc. The next meeting will be at the Seabrook Precinct on January 27th at 7:00 p.m. This will be an informational meeting.

Commissioner Rage said the reason for attending the Seabrook meetings is that Hampton Beach also has parking issues and seeing how Seabrook approaches their problems could be helpful. Commissioner Rage said he contacted Attorney Somers and she said trying an approach to parking would not require a warrant article and the Commissioners should go to the Board of Selectmen to get permission. This would not have to be a beach-wide trial.

Commissioner Ladd said that in attending the Budget Committee meetings this year he has found that there is no Emergency Management Committee in Hampton. There is a manager who is the Police Chief. There is no money to do much in this area.

Commissioner Ladd discussed the flooding after the New Year storm. He said both Ashworth Avenue and Ocean Blvd. at Church Street were closed. The DPW was tied up with snow removal, so Police had to step in. The avenues out of the beach were extremely limited. This issue should be looked at. Every resident should have received a calendar from the Seabrook power plant in which an evacuation plan is included. Chairman Rage said it is important to contact state representatives to see if flood insurance rates can be controlled. Commissioner Ladd said that a Massachusetts congressman challenged FEMA mapping which is based on west coast mapping.

New Business

Matt Gregg came forward and spoke about the Craft Beer Race series. This series will feature six events throughout New England in 2014. They would like to bring this 5K race to Hampton on May 10, 2014.

Mr. Gregg said they will need assistance from the Village District with volunteerism and scheduling. They would be willing to donate \$3 from every entry fee back to Hampton Beach in exchange for this assistance.

Mr. Gregg said Hampton Beach has a lot to offer for this series. They would like to host the festival in one of the parking lots. This will be the only NH based race in the series.

Chairman Rage said volunteers would probably not be a problem. He told Mr. Gregg that it would be necessary for him to go to the Town for permission. Mr. LaBranche said it would probably be better to do this festival on State property so that the Village District can use their lot if there is good weather on that day.

Moved by Chairman Rage, seconded by Commissioner Ladd, to support the Craft Beer Race series at Hampton Beach with volunteers and assistance. \$3.00 from every entry fee is to go to the Village District and will go toward improvements at the playground.

Vote: 2 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. LaBranche said last year's budget was \$495,600 and the year finished at \$472,269.83. Approximately \$23,000 or 4.7% was not spent. The Village District did very well.

Mr. LaBranche said he is working with Youngclaus to prepare the books for audit with David Creed. A contract was signed with Mr. Creed to do the audit. Mr. LaBranche said there will be a public budget work session on Tuesday, January 21st, at 12:30 p.m. at the fire station.

Chairman Rage discussed the private petitioned warrant article regarding trash pickup. Commissioner Ladd read the article. Chairman Rage said it is extremely important to get people out to vote against this article. If it passes, it will be a nightmare. Voters should attend the Deliberative Session to be held on Saturday, February 1st to express their opposition. Selectman Michael Pierce said the Board of Selectmen has voted 4 to 1 to NOT recommend.

Commissioner Ladd said the cost impact of this article is substantial. A great deal of money was spent on carts. One of the most concerning parts of this article is the use of the word "condo". There are 2,685 residential condos in this town. This is a far greater scoped article than just businesses at the beach. Also the use of the word "commercial" is a problem. Legally it is anyone engaged in business. This would apply to those who have businesses in their homes.

Richard Reniere complimented Commissioner Ladd for bringing up unanticipated consequences of this warrant article.

Commissioner Ladd said the NH SPCA has acknowledged a donation from the Village District in memory of Vic Lessard.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Chairman Rage, seconded by Commissioner Ladd, to approve the Minutes of December 11, 2013.

Vote: 2 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Charlie Preston discussed the parking lot. He said an entrance should be considered on Brown because people would not have to drive on Ashworth or Ocean Blvd. A time system should also be considered. If any conduits are planned, they should be done now.

Kathy Silva of Blue Ocean said the New Years Eve celebration was a big success. Blue Ocean served coffee and cookies to 190 people. They are considering doing something like this for Valentines Day, Easter, etc. Blue Ocean is still open on Friday mornings for Story Time and birthday parties by arrangement.

Closing Comments

Chairman Rage asked for a Moment of Silence for Vic Lessard and Linda Pierce who recently passed away.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Rice
Secretary